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IOWA LIBRARY QUARTERLY

Issued quarterly by the Iowa State Traveling Library

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State Library Board

GOVERNOR WILLIAM S. BEARDSLEY
JUDGE T. G. GARFIELD
JESSIE M. PARKER
Superintendent of Public Instruction

BLANCHE A. SMITH, Librarian
OFFICE
State Historical Building
Des Moines

CONTENTS

	Page
District meetings	192
University Library dedication	194
Intellectual freedom for librarians	195
Survey of Iowa libraries	197
Workshop for public librarians	199
Personals	201
News	201
Necrology	203
The friendly shelves, by Louise Hovde Mortensen	204

Our President Speaks

Spring is a wonderful time of year. It not only brings May flowers but district meetings as well. I hope that all members of ILA are looking forward to the district meetings with as much eagerness as I am. Last year I had the privilege of attending seven meetings and it was a memorable experience. This year I aim to attend all of the meetings. I hope that every member of ILA is planning to attend at least one meeting. Look over the schedule of meetings, see which place and date is most convenient, write the hostess that you are coming and plan on having an exciting day. It's always fun to renew acquaintances, meet new friends, and talk shop with other librarians and trustees. And from the plans I've seen, I can assure you the programs will be stimulating and worthwhile. Make your plans now, close the library for the day if necessary, and let's meet at the district meetings.

Germaine Krettek, President
Iowa Library Association

NEWS OF THE DISTRICT MEETINGS

Plans for the District meetings this spring were formulated at a gathering of the District Chairmen on January 16th in Des Moines.

The meetings will be held on the following schedule:

				Hostesses	Chairmen
Apr. 30	Dist.	1	Cresco	Muriel Luers	Mrs. Ralph Feeney
May 1	"	6	Tipton	Mayme Walters	Betty Coughlin
May 2	"	7	Burlington	Elsie Schinzel	Mrs. Hoyt Lutes
May 6	"	3	Storm Lake	Martha Naumann	Dorothy Larson
May 7	"	4	Harlan	Mrs. Valborg Lux	Dorothy Naughton
May 8	"	9	Shenandoah	Mrs. Ruth Jones	Vera Payton
May 9	"	8	Indianola	Ruth Dyer	Mrs. Beulah Mabry
May 15	"	2	Eagle Grove	Mrs. George Paine	Mrs. Ada Chaplin
May 16	"	5	Marshalltown	Helen Hurlbutt	Blanche Maytag

One of the "hottest" topics at the district meetings will be O.A.S.I.S. (old age benefit). Everyone who works in a library in Iowa is personally and financially interested and involved. It is hoped that a lively discussion will be had. So that the discussion may be informed discussion, it is hoped that everyone will have read the pamphlet issued by the state tax commission in order that present regulations and benefits are fully understood.

The What—Why—Where—and When of book buying will be one of the important topics. Examples of book selection helps will be on display for those not familiar with such aids.

Public Relations—inside and outside the library—is vital to every library and can be achieved in so many ways. Here will be a fine opportunity for give-and-take of ideas.

Developing the Youth Collection, and keeping young people's reading interests will be the other major topic of district meeting interest.

Dues may be paid at the meeting, but it would be wise to send dues direct to Treasurer Jack Tillson, Boone High School Library, Boone. Advance payment will avoid a bottleneck at the meeting.

Blanche Smith plans to attend all district meetings. Germaine Krettek, president of ILA, and Opal Tanner, vice President of ILA, will attend as many meetings as possible.

Close your library and attend your district meeting. Take part in discussions and help make the meeting both profitable and pleasant for all.

Opal Tanner, Vice President
Iowa Library Association

ARE DISTRICT LIBRARY MEETINGS IMPORTANT?

In this election year great emphasis is being placed on grass root meetings where people can come together to exchange views, and chart their future course of action. This is the way a democracy can work to best advantage.

Librarians do not have many opportunities to get together to discuss their work. Keeping a library going demands the presence of the librarian, or a substitute. This is especially true of the smaller communities where one person is the entire staff. But it is in these libraries where there is the greatest need for the information that can be acquired, the inspiration that can be gained and the fine friendships that can be formed at these smaller gatherings.

An effort has been made to plan a program that will bring vital subjects to the attention of those who attend. Librarians, library assistants, trustees and friends of libraries are urged to attend. There will be discussions of some old questions such as the Iowa Old Age Assistance and the changes that may be made in the law. And those libraries that are thinking about some remodeling and decoration should come and find what the experience of other libraries has been along these lines. It will save you the trouble of writing a letter to the State Traveling Library when these matters arise in your own library.

Trustees are responsible for much of the success of the meetings. They are the ones who decide that the library will be closed the day of the district meeting, so the librarian will not have any excuse for not going. They are the ones, also, who can provide transportation for the librarian and staff members. It is not surprising, after a look at salaries paid to librarians, to find that few librarians have a car to drive.

So let's follow the advice of our president and vice president and plan now to attend at least one meeting this spring. Let's get to the roots of some of the library problems that face us. It is much easier when we know what others have done along these lines.

ATTENDANCE AT DISTRICT MEETINGS

Only once since 1933 has the attendance at the district library meetings dropped below 400. In 1946 there were 687 present. This seems to be the high record for these meetings. This is not too impressive when one considers that there are about 3,000 library trustees and possibly a thousand librarians in the various libraries of the state.

Why not make this the banner year for these meetings?

IOWA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION DUES

There was the usual confusion about how much to pay and where to send it when the appeal went out for payment of ILA dues.

The money is to be paid to the treasurer, whose name and address are on the ticket. This year it is Jack E. Tillson, Boone High School Library, Boone, Iowa.

The dues are $1.00 for librarians, staff members, trustees or friends of libraries.

For libraries, the membership is according to income:

Income	Dues
Up to $500	$ .50
$500 to $1,000	1.00
$1,000 to $2,500	1.50
$2,500 to $5,000	2.00
$5,000 to $10,000	3.00
$10,000 to $15,000	5.00
$15,000 and over	10.00

STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY IS DEDICATED

The dedication of the new University Library building was held January 25 and 26 with appropriate ceremonies. This first permanent home for the university libraries since 1897 was put into use last March as soon as the books could be moved in, and has seen intensive use since.

Dr. E. F. D'Arms, associate director of the humanities division of the Rockefeller Foundation, opened the two-day celebration with a speech challenging the American student to take stock of his own values, and not to withdraw from the world but to be prepared to grapple with his problems as far as his training and ability permit.

Dr. Hayward Kensiton, professor of romance languages at Michigan University, criticized present day college programs for failure to develop in students the wisdom essential to right thinking and action, which he called the mark of a truly educated person.

Dr. Virgil Hancher led a panel discussion concerned with the theories that led to the construction of the library building. Participating were Dr. John Briggs of the university's political science department, Dr. Ralph E. Ellsworth, director of the university libraries, and Dean E. T. Peterson of the college of education. According to Dr. Briggs the library is "more than just an intellectual factory, it is the soul of the university."

"The student and his reading" was the subject of the talk by Dr. Stanley Pargellis, librarian of the Newberry Library in Chicago.

Seminar discussions were held Saturday in which some of the subjects under discussion were Human relations area files problems, Library architecture and building planning, and Special collections and rare books.

Friday afternoon there was a reception in the library lobby for visitors, students and faculty, and a dinner in the Memorial Union, where Milton Lord, a former university librarian at Iowa, and Robert A. Miller, librarian at Indiana university library, were speakers.

About a hundred librarians from all over the United States attended this dedication of the one-and-a-half-million-dollar building which can accommodate 1,800 students at one time, which is open every day for 16 hours, and where many graduates stay until the midnight closing hour.

Two experiments are being made in the library—the Shambaugh Heritage Library and the open-stack time-group system of classification. In the Shambaugh Heritage Library, on the first floor, are placed required references for "core reading" to accommodate freshmen students. Members of the library staff advise and help them.

On the second floor, used by advanced undergraduates and graduate students, books are arranged in chronological groups that make it possible to study related subjects in a particular period of history. The students are becoming accustomed to the new system and are gaining proficiency in its use.

A modular system of construction allows movement and rearrangement of interior partitions. Some walls have been added or moved within the library already.

More than 400 individual desks and cubicles are available for students on the three floors and the top floor has study rooms that afford privacy for graduate study.

Mechanical processes of getting books from one part of the library to another are speeded up by the use of pneumatic tubes. Books are brought to the main desk by elevator and book lift.

Fifty years from now, the accounts of this beautiful new building and its modern features may be read with amusement by a generation accustomed to a more highly developed library service. To us, with our present background and perspective, it represents the last word in beauty, utility and service.

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM FOR LIBRARIANS

By Clyde C. Walton, Jr.
S. U. I. Libraries

What is intellectual freedom? Intellectual freedom is our right to think and to study and to read without restraint. To us, as librarians, intellectual freedom is a cornerstone in the foundation on which our profession is built. Without it, no library can do its share in helping our citizens to knowledge.

Why is intellectual freedom so important? Americans believe that government is "by the *people*, for the *people* and of the *people*." We believe the government is ourselves. It stands to reason that government can be no better than is each one of us. We believe that we are smart enough to know what is best for us. Intellectual freedom is our right to find out what is best for us.

What have libraries to do with intellectual freedom? One of the best ways we have of finding out what is best for us is through reading. To understand ourselves, our country and our world, we have to know what he have been, what we are now and what we want to be. We need to know what we have done that is good, and what we have done that is bad. We need to know everything we can learn about these things.

Our most important job as librarians is in helping people to find out about themselves, their country and their world. Our patrons must not be misinformed through fragmentary knowledge. Books in our libraries should be selected so the reader may get a complete picture of his subject. For librarians, intellectual freedom is simply the right of the library to select and keep those books which will best help its patrons understand themselves, their country and their world, without interference from *anyone*.

What do librarians think about intellectual freedom? Librarians, speaking through their professional library organization, the American Library Association, adopted the Library Bill of Rights, June 18, 1948. We said then we believed in, and would stand up for, the ideas in this document. It is such an important document for librarians that we are reprinting it here.

"Library Bill of Rights
June 18, 1948

1. As a responsibility of library service, books and other reading matter selected should be chosen for values of interest, information and enlightenment of all the people of the community. In no case should any book be excluded because of the race or nationality, or the political or religious view of the writer.

2. There should be the fullest practicable provision of material presenting all points of view concerning the problems and issues of our times, international, national and local; and books or other reading matter of sound factual authority should not be proscribed or removed from library shelves because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

3. Censorship of books, urged or practiced by volunteer arbiters of morals or political opinion or by organizations that would establish a coercive concept of Americanism, must be challenged by libraries in maintenance of their responsibility to provide public information and enlightenment through the printed word.

4. Libraries should enlist the cooperation of allied groups in the fields of science, of education, and of book-publishing in resisting all abridgment to the free access of ideas and full freedom of expression that are the tradition and heritage of Americans.

5. As an institution of education for democratic living, the library should welcome the use of its meeting-rooms for socially-useful and cultural activities, and discussion of current,

public questions. Such meeting-places should be available on equal terms to all groups in the community, regardless of the beliefs and affiliations of their members."

What are librarians doing about intellectual freedom? First of all, they have a committee of the American Library Association which helps local librarians protect their intellectual freedom. They do this by studying intellectual freedom, by telling other groups such as, teachers, women's clubs and veterans' organizations about intellectual freedom, and by publishing the facts where intellectual freedom has been violated.

Second, each state library association has a similar committee which does the same thing for its own state. The members of the Iowa Library Association, Intellectual Freedom Committee this year are: Thelma Grover, Cedar Rapids Public Library, Clyde Walton, SUI Libraries, and John Harvey, Parsons College Library (Chairman).

The Iowa Library Association, Intellectual Freedom Committee has been very active this year. They have written to many organizations in Iowa to tell them about libraries and intellectual freedom. Two members of the committee met the American Library Association Committee in Chicago to discuss how state groups can work best with the national group. They investigated and reported to the Iowa Library Association Executive Board a violation of the Library Bill of Rights in Iowa. They are constantly watching for other violations in the state.

What should librarians do about intellectual freedom? First, get your library board to adopt the Library Bill of Rights as an official policy of your library. This puts you and your library on record and may prevent future misunderstandings. Second, learn all you can about intellectual freedom. The bibliography at the end of this article will get you started. Third, report any violations, or suspected violations, of the Library Bill of Rights to your Intellectual Freedom Committee. Write to the member who lives closest to your library. By working with other groups, the committee can bring a great deal of pressure to bear on those who violate our intellectual freedom.

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JANUARY QUARTERLIES NEEDED

Because our reserve supply of January, 1952, IOWA LIBRARY QUARTERLIES is low, we will appreciate the return of any which are not needed. At present we are not able to supply requests for them.

ARE TRUSTEES WAKING UP?

Can it be Iowa Library Trustees are waking up? Something has happened, because 416 trustees have paid their state dues this year. In comparison, this is an increase of 34 per cent over the 308 who responded last year. President Frank Milligan of the Iowa Trustees hopes part of the response came as the result of his "naughty, naughty" letter sent to all trustees in January, in which he scolded them for not supporting their state organization and for failing their public trust of maintaining modern, up-to-date libraries. Whatever it is that brought in this new membership is worthwhile, and it is hoped the trend will continue. There are some 2,200 trustees in the state, 85 per cent of whom still do not support the state organization by contributing dues.

Trustees belonging to ILA:

1949	1950	1951	1952
330	284	308	416

NOTICE

The Extension Committee of the Iowa Library Association is sponsoring a contest for the best one-act play *or* the best 15-minute radio script to be written by anyone interested, whether he be a member of the Iowa Library Association or not, or whether he live in Iowa or not. The subject is "any phase of *rural* library extension." First prize is $25.00 and the second prize, $10.00. All entries must be in by June 15; they must be typed, double space, on one side of the paper only. The best entries will be used in connection with the extension program at the state convention in Sioux City in the fall.

The judges for the contest are Mrs. Louane Newsome of the University Libraries. Mrs. J. F. Cross of the Cross & Co. book store in Cedar Falls and a member of the library board of that city, and Mr. Robert W. Orr of the Iowa State College Library.

Entries should be mailed to Elizabeth B. Hage, ILA Extension Committee, Scott Library, Eldridge, Iowa.

THE SURVEY OF IOWA LIBRARIES IS UNDERWAY

By N. L. Kilpatrick
Associate Director of Libraries
State University of Iowa

At the 1951 Mid-winter Meeting of ALA, Mrs. Harry Stanwood, Chairman of the Trustees Section of ILA, asked me if I thought that a survey of Iowa public libraries would be a worthwhile project for the Trustee Section to sponsor and promulgate.

I agreed at once that the project, although difficult, was one which was badly needed in Iowa. I recalled the many conversations and off-the-record reports that I had had about libraries hampered from giving the service that was needed for their community because of inadequate book collections, unattractive and poorly equipped buildings, and insufficient financial support. I recalled, also, that in discussing these problems one traveled in a "vicious circle" because all arguments were based on isolated cases and impressions, rather than on facts and figures.

This does not mean that there are no figures or statistics. For the 343 public libraries there are statistics to show the number of city borrowers, the annual appropriations and the amount spent for books, periodicals, salaries, etc. These figures provide facts that are quantitative rather than qualitative.

It is not enough to say that 30.8 per cent[1] of the population of Iowa is without library facilities, or that the library facilities of such and such a town are inadequate unless they can be backed up with a variety of facts.

To learn the facts is the purpose of the survey and the reason for asking such questions as:

1. How adequate is the building?
2. How satisfactory is the equipment (Furniture, lights, etc.)?
3. How well paid is the librarian?

[1] *Going Down*, Iowa Library Quarterly, No. IV, p. 152, July, 1951.

4. How well trained is the librarian?
5. How good is the adult book collection?
6. How good is the children's book collection?
7. What services does the library give?
8. What support, in dollars and cents, does the library receive from the community?

Any questionnaire is bothersome to fill out, but in this case it is an inexpensive and fair way to obtain the information. Every librarian realizes the educational power of her library and is anxious to expand her services. By filling out the questionnaire she can do a great deal toward making it possible to improve the library service in Iowa.

The answers to these questions will give facts that indicate the quality of library service as well as the quantity. It should show why libraries serving communities of approximately the same size show great variations in their statistics as to the amount of financial support and total circulation. It should make it possible to judge what variation there is in library service in various parts of the state, and also to draw comparisons with results learned from the Public Library Inquiry which was terminated in June, 1949.

The questionnaire has been drawn up under the guidance and supervision of David Gold, Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the State University of Iowa. It has been reviewed and revised by the members of the Trustees Section of the Iowa Library Association who are on the Survey Committee. These members are: Frank T. Milligan, Chairman of the Trustees Section; Mrs. Harry Stanwood, past chairman of the Trustees Section; Forrest J. Ford, a trustee from Dixon, Iowa; Norman L. Kilpatrick, Associate Director of Libraries, State University of Iowa; and Blanche Smith, State Traveling Librarian, Des Moines, Iowa.

The findings will be submitted in tabulated form to the Trustees Committee who are responsible for the survey. Every effort will be made to safeguard the anonymity of an individual library. The librarian need not fear that her library will be singled out as an example of very good, or very poor library service.

Twelve questionnaires have already been sent out to libraries of different sizes and in different geographical locations, to test the wording of the questionnaire. From the replies that have been received, it would seem that only a few minor changes need to be made.

The Survey Committee will appreciate it if, when you receive your questionnaire, you fill it out and return it as promptly as possible. Every public and association library in the state will be contacted. The nearer we can come to reaching a goal of 100 per cent, the more valuable the survey will be.

DES MOINES LIBRARY CLUB

The January meeting of the Des Moines Library Club was held at the Iowa State Education Association headquarters with the Library Service as hosts.

After a dinner at Terrace Cafe and inspection of the ISEA Bookmobile stationed outside, the librarians toured the office and shipping rooms of the ISEA Library Service. Later they assembled in the conference room for the program in charge of Dorothy Deyoe of the State Traveling Library. Dorothy Collins explained the services offered by the State Traveling Library and J. J. Jacobs and Juanita Petersen told how the ISEA Library Service serves the state. Dick Blome, sales representative in charge of the bookmobile, told about his work. The program closed with a showing of the film "Bookward Ho."

Three representatives of the Illinois Pupils Reading Circle were guests. They were Rolland McCannon, manager; Mildred Nickel, director of school libraries, Illinois Department of Public Instruction; and Marguerite Zimmerman, high school librarian at Springfield and a member of the Illinois Reading Circle.

STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
Workshop for Public Librarians
June 16-20, 1952

To give library workers in the small public libraries an opportunity to improve their knowledge of library techniques and stimulate their professional thinking, the State University of Iowa announces a refresher course and workshop from June 16 through June 20, 1952.

This one week training period will be conducted to help librarians in practical work-a-day problems encountered in book selection, cataloging, reference work and children's literature. Joint sponsors are the College of Education and the Department of Library Education. Instructors have been recruited from the Cedar Rapids Public Library, the Des Moines Public Library, the State Traveling Library and the University Library.

No special training or experience is required for this workshop. Anyone interested may register. No university credit will be given.

Fees and living expenses are being kept at a minimum to make it possible for librarians of the very small public libraries to attend. No textbooks or other materials will be required. The registration fee for the five-day period is $6.25 per person. Room and meals will be available at Currier Hall for the period of the workshop (single room $12.50 per person; double room $10.00 per person). A check for your room must be mailed before June 5, 1952. Registrants desiring to make other arrangements may do so.

To increase the usefulness of such a workshop, it is hoped that each registrant will indicate on the registration blank several specific problems of special interest.

All classes scheduled for morning and afternoon sessions will be held at the University High School. All evening sessions will be held in the Shambaugh Lecture Hall in the State University of Iowa Library.

The following courses will be offered:

Binding and Repair— (As arranged), Letta Berry
Book Selection—6 hours, Curtis Jenkins
Cataloging—5 hours, Claribelle Sommerville
Norman L. Kilpatrick
Children's Literature—6 hours, Mrs. Ellis Newsome
Reference—4 hours, Curtis Jenkins.

Evening sessions will be devoted to the following topics:
Administrative Problems, Dan Williams
Audio-Visual, Mrs. Ellis Newsome
Discarding, Blanche Smith
Finances, Archie Eggen

Schedule of classes:

MORNING

June 16th	June 17th	June 18th
Book Selection (9:30-12:00)	Cataloging (9:30-12:00)	Book Selection (9:30-12:00)
June 19th	**June 20th**	
Cataloging (9:30-12:00)	Book Section (9:30-12:00)	

AFTERNOON

June 16th	June 17th	June 18th
Children's Literature (2:00-4:00)	Reference (2:00-4:00)	Children's Literature (2:00-4:00)
June 19th	**June 20th**	
Reference (2:00-4:00)	Children's Literature (2:00-4:00)	

EVENING

June 16th	June 17th
Discarding (8:00-9:30)	Finances (8:00-9:30)
June 18th	**June 19th**
Audio-Visual (8:00-9:30)	Public Relations (8:00-9:30)

NEWBERY-CALDECOTT DINNER

The Grand Ballroom of The Waldorf-Astoria, the background for many historic and glamorous occasions, will be the setting for this year's Newbery-Caldecott Dinner honoring Mrs. Estes and Mr. Mordvinoff to be held on July 1st during the conference of the American Library Association. Dinner will be at seven-thirty o'clock preceded by cocktails a la carte in the lounge of the Ballroom after six-thirty. The price of the dinner is $10 which includes gratuities.

Reservations, with accompanying checks or money orders, should be made out and sent to Eulalie Steinmetz, New York Public Library, 476 Fifth Avenue, New York 18, N. Y. Tickets will be sent by return mail. If groups wishing to sit together will state this on their reservations, the committee will make every effort to arrange the seating accordingly.

NEWBERY-CALDECOTT AWARDS

The Newbery-Caldecott awards were announced Friday, March 7, from Frederic Melcher's office and presented by the Children's Section of the American Library Association.

Eleanor Estes' *Ginger Pye* won the Newbery award, now in its 35th year. Runners up were Elizabeth Baity for *Americans Before Columbus*, Holling C. Holling for *Minn of the Mississippi*, Nicholas Kalashnikoff for *The Defender*, Julia L. Sauer for *Light at Tern Rock* and Mary Buff for *Apple and the Arrow*.

For the most distinguished picture book for children in 1951 the Caldecott medal goes to Nicholas Mordvinoff for *Finders Keepers*. Runners up were Marie H. Ets for *Mr. T. W. Anthony Woo*, Marcia Brown for *Skipper John's Cook*, Margaret B. Graham for *All Falling Down*, William P. DuBois for *Bear Party* and Elizabeth Olds for *Feather Mountain*.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSN.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt will be one of the principal speakers at the American Library Association's 71st Annual Conference to be held in New York (at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel) June 29 to July 5.

Mrs. Roosevelt, who cabled her acceptance from India to ALA Headquarters in Chicago, will speak on the subject of Books as bridges to international understanding, at the third general session of the Conference at 2 P.M. on July 3.

"Books Are Basic" is the Conference theme. Three other general sessions will relate books to culture, technology and industry, and to freedom of inquiry.

More than 5,000 librarians from all parts of the country are expected to attend the Conference which annually is one of the largest of the nation's professional gatherings. ALA President, Mrs. Loleta D. Fyan, Michigan State Librarian, will preside at the general sessions. In addition, there will be more than 150 business and program meetings covering all phases of librarianship. At the final session, the President-elect, Robert Bingham Downs, Director of the University of Illinois Libraries and of the Library School, Urbana, Illinois, will be installed as president. Conference chairman is Francis R. St. John, Chief Librarian of the Brooklyn (N. Y.) Public Library.

During the Conference week, seven divisions of the ALA will be in special sessions. They are: American Association of School Librarians, Association of College and Reference Libraries, Division of Cataloging and Classification, Division of Libraries for Children and Young People, Hospital Libraries Division, Library Education Division, and Public Libraries Division.

THE AMERICAN HERITAGE

Do you believe that the greatest asset of the American way of life is an informed and thinking public? Convinced of this, the American Library Association has started a series of adult discussion groups, called the American Heritage Project.

ALA helps in organizing and planning programs, and supplies, free of charge, copies of reading and film lists, Leader's Manual, outlines of programs, discussion guides, study guides, and the training of groups of leaders.

Johnson's *This American People* and Commager's *Living Ideas in America* are two of the books commonly used in the local groups sponsored by local public libraries. Groups of fifteen to twenty people meeting every two weeks have proved most successful.

"Newspapers," says one of the enthusiastic participants in the Heritage discussions, "have become fascinating to read. Comics are relegated to the last—if at all . . ."

Here is your chance, librarians! Let your library make another positive contribution to the best that is American. Write to the American Heritage Project Office, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago 11, Illinois, for help.

Beryl E. Hoyt, ALA Councilor
Iowa Library Association

PERSONALS

Dr. Charles H. Brown stopped in Iowa City for the two day dedication of the University Library on his way to Tallahassee, Florida, where he is teaching two courses in the library school. He is also serving as consultant to the science department in selecting scientific serials for research.

Hazel Evans, who has been answering reference questions for the Cedar Rapids public for the last 25 years, retired in February and is now doing just what she pleases to do, whether it is "reading for pleasure," riding a hobby horse or traveling.

Mrs. Lucretia E. Garretson, librarian of the State department of history and archives, was elected president of the Des Moines branch of National League of American Pen Women. She was elected delegate to the national meeting of the organization in Washington, D. C., April 5.

John F. Harvey, chairman, and member of the Iowa Library Association Intellectual Freedom committee were cited recently by the American Library Association committee News Notes for their active program. The I.L.A. outline was recommended as a model for similar state and local committees.

Rutherford Roger, formerly of Jesup, has been elected librarian of the Rochester (New York) public library, succeeding John Adams Lowe who is retiring after serving 20 years. Mr. Roger has been director of the Grosvenor Library of Buffalo.

A pamphlet *Our foreign policy, 1952* has just been released by the State Department. It may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., for 25c.

Copies of *The Polio Pledge* are available to libraries on request. Write to National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, 120 Broadway, New York 5, New York.

NEWS FROM IOWA LIBRARIES

Allison—Mrs. Dick Bauman has been appointed librarian succeeding the late Georgianna McRoberts.

Council Bluffs—Mildred Smock has been appointed assistant librarian. She has been a member of the staff since 1941.

Des Moines—Forrest B. Spaulding, who has served as librarian of the Des Moines Public Library for a total of 28 years has resigned, effective May 1. He will go to Nashua, New Hampshire, where he will be head of the public library.

The Des Moines library club honored him at the March meeting, presenting him with a copy of Johnson Brigham's *Sinclairs of Old Fort Des Moines*, beautifully bound by the Hertzberg Craftsmen.

Open house was held at the library March 30, to give his many friends this opportunity to call.

Fort Dodge—The Junior Women's Club has presented a ceiling projector to the library, with 30 books for it.

Fredericksburg—The library which had been closed since May opened in its new quarters in January. The building has been provided and decorated by the community.

Independence—The members of the library board held open house in honor of Neva Tabor, February 12. Miss Tabor has resigned after serving as librarian almost 29 years. Mrs. Bea McGuire succeeds her as librarian.

Iowa City—On Thursday, March 27, 1952, the Johnson County Rural Women's Organization, sponsored by the Farm Bureau, held a "Rural Women's Day" at the Community House in Iowa City.

A miniature library with the sign "The Always Open Door to Good Books" made an attractive exhibit. The library thus represented has been developed by the townships involved, each contributing two books for lending purposes. Mrs. Ralph Bohlin of Tiffin, Iowa, is in charge of the project. The books are loaned on an honor system and the Secretary of the Farm Bureau does what little record-keeping that needs to be done.

Here we have an example of a community which is aware of its needs for better library service, and is doing something about it.

Keokuk—The library has been redecorated and the floor covering is now red asphalt tile.

Lakota—Mrs. W. C. Buckels is the new librarian succeeding Mrs. Henry Mitchell, who had served for 12 years.

Manly—Mrs. James Pinta replaces Mrs. Nellie Bosworth who resigned because of her health, but who will continue as assistant librarian. Mrs. Pinta worked in the Manly Library before moving to Indiana several years ago.

Marshalltown—Open house, scheduled for March 3, was continued through the week because of the weather. The purpose of the open house was to show off the remodeled and decorated building. About $20,000 was spent in improvements.

Maynard—Mrs. Gilbert Schrader replaces Mrs. J. W. Judas, who resigned.

Monticello—The library is beginning to plan for an observance of 50 continuous years of service to the community. June 1952 will mark the anniversary of the founding of the library.

Newell—Mrs. H. L. Danielson has been appointed librarian following the resignation of Hallie Kinney.

Odebolt—The library has been named beneficiary in the will of the late Mrs. Nettie M. Adams and has received $2,000 from her estate. It has been stipulated that this money be used for the purchase of books. During their lifetime both Mr. and Mrs. Adams made frequent gifts to the library, especially during the days when the tax levy proved insufficient for the needs of the community.

Chronicles of America is a recent memorial gift by some of Mrs. Adams' intimate friends.

Orange City—Fred H. Wezeman, librarian at Racine, Wisconsin public library, visited in Orange City in February. His uncle, Dr. F. H. Wezeman, called a meeting of the library board and also those connected with the high school and college libraries. It was agreed that the resources of each library be increased without overlapping. This may be done by keeping in touch with each other, so that each library may avoid purchasing books, films and magazines that another has. The collections of each will be available to all the others. In this way the total library resources of the community will be increased without unnecessary duplication.

Oskaloosa—The past year was one of general renovation in the library. Improvements were a new roof, redecoration throughout the library, new window shades and new tiled floor.

Pocahontas—The formal opening of the library in its new quarters was held Saturday, February 2. Members of the library board and the Wa-Tan-Ye club served tea.

Sidney—Mrs. Lee Crose has been appointed to be librarian since the resignation of Mrs. Addie Elliott, on account of her health. Mrs. Elliott had served ten years.

Stanwood—An open meeting was held Wednesday, March 26 to discuss the possibilities of organizing a county library. Elizabeth Hage of Scott County Library spoke.

Webster City—Mary Ann Sanem, an Iowa State Teachers College graduate, is assistant librarian succeeding Mrs. Francis Rose.

CHANGES IN LIBRARY BOARDS

Britt—Cecil Lewis and Dr. Marshall Nelson are new members of the board.

L. J. Thies who was superintendent of Britt schools and president of the library board has gone to Council Bluffs, where he is in charge of special education. C. O. Brewster succeeds him as president of the board.

Des Moines—Mrs. Mabel Dahlstrom Borg has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Des Moines Public Library to succeed Mrs. Harry G. Stanwood whose term expired March 31, 1952.

Maquoketa—Mrs. Roy Coverdale

succeeds the late Charles Jennings, filling his unexpired term.

Mason City—Nate Levison has been elected president of the library board, succeeding Mrs. C. H. McNider who remains a member of the board.

Missouri Valley—William Quick replaces Mrs. Frank J. Hardy who resigned after serving as a library trustee for 29 years.

New Hampton — Mrs. Kenneth Hibbs succeeds Mrs. J. P Rigler, resigned.

Nora Springs—Mrs. C. D. Sours and Mrs. Elvin Daily succeed the Rev. A. B. Mercer and Paul E. Artz, resigned.

Postville—Francis Hart has been appointed to fill the unexpired term of Dr. R. F. Topliff.

Rock Rapids—The Reverend R. B. Hartmen succeeds Mrs. Wm. Jammer, resigned.

Schaller—Mrs. Carrie Bradley, a board member since 1927, resigned recently because of poor health. She had served as president since 1950.

Mrs. Samuel Hahne who had served as treasurer since 1925 resigned in 1951.

Scranton—Mrs. D. M. Nixon, Mrs. Fred Crose and Beatrice Gordon are newly appointed members.

Mrs. R. E. Parry resigned after having served on the board for 27 years.

Shenandoah—Mrs. E. C. Vaughn has been appointed to fill out the unexpired term of the late Mrs. A. N. Ahlgren.

Stanton—To celebrate his 81st birthday, members of the library board presented Claus L. Anderson with a framed portrait of himself and a birthday cake with a candle for each year he had served on the library board. Mr. Anderson is no longer a member of the board, although he was one of the original members and served as president several years. He maintains his interest in the library, which he visits daily.

Story City—Mrs. Everett Anderson replaces Mrs. Howard Faulkner, resigned.

NECROLOGY

Ruth Ahlgren served for many years as a very active member of the trustees of the Shenandoah library. She achieved for our library several things that seemed impossible, but her good judgment and stability carried through these projects. We appreciate her leadership in acting as chairman of the book committee; no one can replace her in the great amount of work done in this department. She had excellent taste and we shall miss her fine educational leadership. Ruth's strong, courageous spirit did not weaken as ills beset her body. We are grateful for the privilege of serving with Ruth and are deeply grieved at losing her. (The Shenandoah library board voted to have this tribute inscribed on their minutes)

A library memorial of new books has been set up for the late **J. H. Baker,** who had been a member of the Emmetsburg library board until his death. The new books were purchased by contributions from the board and library staff.

Mrs. Frank Choate, long time member of the Glenwood library board, died February 22, 1952. For a number of years she had served as president of the board.

Charles Jennings, an active member of the Maquoketa library board died in Veterans Hospital in Des Moines, February 8, 1952.

Ainslie Law, Traer librarian for 32 years, died at her home Sunday, March 16. She resigned the position March 1951, because of ill health. At that time she was presented with a gift to express the appreciation of her long and faithful service to the community. The library is to receive $250 from her, to be expended at the rate of $50 a year for juvenile books.

Dr. D. N. Loose, 96, former board member and library patron of Maquoketa, died January 30 in Orlando, Florida. Prior to his death, Dr. Loose was the oldest living alumnus of University of Pennsylvania. During the last ten years he had given the library endowment totaling $10,000.

Mrs Katherine McNamara, former member of the Emmetsburg library board, died December 14, 1951. She had served on the board for many years until her resignation in May 1951, because of ill health. The members of the library board purchased books to be placed in the library as a memorial to her and her faithful service.

Georgianna McRoberts, for the past five years librarian of the Allison public library, died November 1, 1951, at the home of her niece, Mrs. Ray Hubbard, of Cedar Rapids. She lived with her sister in Allison until her illness.

Mrs. A. C. Petersmeyer, president of the Odebolt library board, died November 13, 1951. She had been elected president of the board nine years ago, following the death of her husband who had been a library trustee for 25 years. The library was dear to both of them and has been the recipient of many gifts from them. Mrs. Petersmyer was a prominent and esteemed citizen and Odebolt will miss her.

Samuel Shulman, a trustee of the Iowa City Library since 1946, died suddenly following an operation for brain tumor at the University hospital, on January 29th. He was 36 years old. Mr. Shulman had been active in many civic affairs, and during his period on the library board had been chairman of several committees, having been most active in building up the library budget and in raising personnel standards. Members of the library board plan to establish a book fund in his memory, for books on the subjects of Jewish religion and culture, and interracial understanding.

Celebrating its fortieth anniversary, Girl Scouts of United States of America has issued a book *Citizens in action: the Girl Scout record, 1912-1947.* Copies may be obtained without cost by writing to Mrs. Alfred Wallace, Program Department, Girl Scouts of America, 155 East 44th Street, New York 17, New York.

THE FRIENDLY SHELVES

By Louise Hovde Mortensen

Leisure for meditation, according to Carlyle, is the greatest gift the gods have to bestow. Only surely not leisure for melancholy meditation. Among the *nouveau pauvre* in the cities are many who, nurtured on books in their happier days, find real relief the municipality offers them in the feast of books assembled in that great communistic institution, the public library.

There are many germ-conscious individuals who shun books which have gone in and out of scores of homes. For my part, I rather enjoy thinking of the persons who have relished the same volume I am reading. The more dog-eared and dirty, the more popular the book probably has been. And we who are poor are like soldiers together in the trenches. We all face a common enemy and social barriers of the past are down. If another man or woman has the same taste as mine in books, are we not equals in an intellectual aristocracy?

The volumes are frequently clad like orphans in a foundling home, all alike in serviceable but not expensive bindings. When the binding is unattractive, the contents must be doubly good to lure us on. But there is always the occasional thrill of finding a library book looking almost like new, one which is a year old already perhaps but the reviews of which we read assiduously at the time of publication.

There is an English gentleman in one of Somerset Maugham's short stories who, when living in the Far East, received his copies of *The London Times* in large packages. To preserve the delectable pleasure of reading his morning *Times* at breakfast, he kept them in consecutive order and read one each morning as if he were really receiving the latest news from the press. It is in this spirit that I can enjoy reading comparatively new books in the public library. Seeing a volume, I pounce upon it and then it seems only last week that a review of it appeared. It gives one almost as

great a thrill as being presented with a new copy.

Libraries, like breakfast foods, tooth pastes and radios, make all American towns fairly standardized. When traveling one can seek out a public library and find on its shelves the old familiar faces which we left at home. We know our way about its book-lined walls in whatever town we chance to be. There is always some Atherton and Austen under the A's, some Balzac, Barrie, Bennett and Bojer under the B's and so on down to Zangwill and Zweig.

There is a great thrill in meeting face to face the *genius loci* and it is usually to be found in public libraries. I shall never forget reading *Moby Dick* while summering at Martha's Vineyard. The island made the book more living and the book made the island less dead.

I sometimes envy Catholics their bishops, and altars, their convents and their shrines. Yet a public library can give me a Catholic's feeling of reverence when I enter the quiet reading rooms. It is a sanctuary from the world, a place where voices speak to me, a light in the darkness, a staff for my weakness, a crypt wherein many spirits lie embalmed. Sometimes one could almost be a spiritualist, so strongly do the presence of authors make themselves felt in libraries.

The obliging librarians are the high priests and acolytes who answer my prayers for books, more books. And then the people, O the people! I was once reading poetry in a large reading room and observed a man next to me reading an industrial survey of the overall business. Of such contrasts is the microcosm made. One day while reading Saintine's *Picciola* of which the principal character is the Count of Charny, I noticed that my next neighbor was deep in *The Countess of Charny* by Dumas; the reading room had brought the characters in close proximity. But of course the chief delight in one's library friends is that they will go home with you to entertain you by your own fireside without the discomfitures of straight-backed chairs.

When I face the magazine racks, I feel the pleasant surfeit of a Thanksgiving dinner. Here are dollars and dollars worth of magazines for me to read or skim through. What luck! Like finding a blank check to fill in.

And as for the children's room—the children's room in any library gives me a nostalgia for the one to which I went in my own childhood. Like Hazlitt in his *Advice to a schoolboy* I can say, "If my life had been more full of calamity than it has been I would live it all over again, my poor little boy, to have read the books I did in my youth."

One of the stings of poverty is the loss of certain companionships we once enjoyed. Lack of money for new clothes, transportation, and entertainment is a genuine loss in this respect. But a library card is equal to an engraved invitation to a brilliant function. We who must satisfy our longing for literary teas in the public library find there good consolation. The tea is the strong brew such as Johnson loved and the conversation of excellent quality.

Mildred Pike reports that the Hotel Martin, 4th and Pierce Streets, will be headquarters for the Iowa Library Association, which will meet in Sioux City September 25, 26 and 27. All exhibits, meetings, breakfasts, luncheons and dinners will be held there.

Hotel rates are as follows:

MARTIN HOTEL

300 rooms
4th and Pierce Sts.

Single		Double
$ 3.25	Without bath	$ 5.00
3.50	Detached shower and toilet	5.50
4.25	Shower bath	6.75
4.75		7.25
4.25	Tub bath	6.75
4.50		7.00
4.75		7.25
5.00		7.50
6.00		9.00
7.00		10.00

WARRIOR HOTEL

200 rooms
6th and Nebraska Sts.

Single		Double
$4.75	All with bath	$ 7.25
5.00		7.50
5.25		7.75
5.75		8.50
7.00		10.00

(Suites: $10.00 to $15.00)

MAYFAIR HOTEL

150 rooms
3rd and Nebraska Sts.

Single		Double
$ 2.75 to $ 3.50	Without bath	$ 1.50 extra for each additional guest
3.00 to 3.75	With toilet	
3.75 to 5.00	With toilet and bath	

JACKSON HOTEL

140 rooms
5th and Jackson Sts.

Single		Double
$ 2.00 to $ 2.25	Without bath	$ 2.75 to $ 3.00
3.00	With bath	4.00 to 4.50
3.00 to 3.35	With shower	4.50 to 5.00
	Twin beds with bath	

$1.00 extra for each additional guest on above rate—50 cents extra on rooms in combination with connecting bath.

WEST HOTEL

195 rooms
3rd and Nebraska Sts.

Single		Double
$ 2.50	Without bath Double bed	$ 3.50
3.50	With bath Double bed	5.00
4.00	With bath Twin beds	5.75